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Decades in the making, a Direction Connection begins

The massive, $900 million Direct Connection project – which will provide a seamless route for I-295 motorists traveling through the interchange of I-295, Route 42 and I-76 - is finally moving off the drawing boards and into construction after more than a decade of planning, design, engineering and community involvement.

The need for significant improvements to this interchange was recognized in 1985 during the Department's design of widening improvements for Route 42. In 1999, NJDOT in conjunction with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission recommended that a project providing for a full, grade-separated interchange be advanced.

The current configuration, one of the true head scratchers of patchwork design confusion in New Jersey, requires I-295 motorists to exit the interstate and weave across other congested highway lanes to return to I-295. The Direct Connection project will eliminate dangerous merge conditions by building a viaduct that carries I-295 traffic over Route 42 and I-76.

I-295, Route 42 and I-76 aerial at 'Aljo' curve.

As explained by Project Manager **John McCleerey** "A total of 26 alternatives were considered during the design and planning process that included extensive community involvement. Five of the 26 alternatives were selected for further consideration, with the Department ultimately settling on the preferred alternative – the project as we see it now."

According to **Amy Kennard,** Assistant Project Manager CPM, the planning process included the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with federal regulations. A Record of Decision approving the EIS was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on March 20, 2009. Environmental concerns that influenced the design included wetlands, noise and air quality, possible hazardous materials in adjacent land or water, archaeology, historic buildings or structures and socioeconomic considerations.

Commissioner James S. Simpson along with Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno break ground for the Direct Connection project.

The project includes a total of 10 new bridges, one bridge widening, one bridge rehabilitation and two temporary bridge structures. A total of 22 retaining walls, more than 40 new sign structures and a total of more than 15,000 feet of new or reconstructed noise walls will be built as a part of the project. The project has been divided into four separate construction contracts, with completion of the fourth and final contract in the fall of 2021. Field Manager **Vince Baglivo** and Resident Engineer **Bill Gaus** have taken the reins for the $160 million Contract 1 and preliminary work has already begun.

Harnessing a public improvement project of this magnitude depends on the steadfast commitment of dozens of NJDOT personnel, design consultants and myriad other stakeholder partners. It would be impossible to recognize everyone at DOT that contributed to the cause over the years but special mention goes to former Project Managers Bruce Riegel (CPM), Jody Barankin (DPD) and **Mike Russo** (current Director of Local Aid), former Program Manager **Dave Lambert** (current Director of Project Management CPM), current Program Manager **Thomas Saylor**, Environmental Specialist 4 **JoAnn Asadpour**, Right-of-Way engineers Robert Cunningham, **Tom Crawford** and **Albert Adolf**, Community Relations Liaison **Kim Nance** and DAG **Nonee Wagner.**

Fernwood roofs get much needed repair

Super Storm Sandy had its way with the corrugated metal roofs on the buildings in the NJDOT Fernwood Complex. A total of 9 buildings sustained wind damage as entire sections of the metal panels blew off. Because the damage occurred right before winter, the roof replacement projects had to be fast-tracked with Treasury under the direction of Debby Hatzisavvas and Mike DeAngelo of Support Services. The 9 buildings were divided into 3 contracts. The deteriorated wood decking has been replaced and 153,000 square feet of asphalt shingles were installed in about 3 months time. The buildings were constructed in 1932 and were originally used for the fabrication and assembly of aircraft for World War II.

NJDOT explains its role to students

On February 25 NJDOT participated in the 17th Annual Career Fair at the Pennsbury High School-East, in Fairless Hills, PA. The career fair was a district wide, school to career event with emphasis on career exploration for all students, grades K-12. Around 1200 students, parents, teachers and community members visited at least 75 exhibitors representing business, industry, government, health care and nonprofit professionals.

NJDOT employees **Xiaouha Hannah Cheng**, Principle Engineer, **Kiranben Patel**, Assistant Engineer and **Humayun Kabir**, Assistant Engineer, all from Division of Bridge Engineering and Infrastructure Management, represented the Department at this event. They shared information with students, parents and teachers on subjects such as our role in public service, NJDOT organization, engineering insight, and on specific roadway and bridge projects. We also explained educational requirements, professional insight, different fields of civil engineering, and helped students to answer quiz questions. Through one-on-one conversations, students gained valuable insight about civil engineering not necessarily acquired in a school classroom setting.

Sincere thanks go to **Dave Lambert**, State Transportation Engineer and **Lisa Barbiero**, Bureau of Traffic Engineering for their kind support in helping coordinate this event.

Left to right: Humayun Kabir, Kiranben Patel and Xiaouha Hannah Cheng

TRANSPORTER

E-News

News for and about
NJ Department of Transportation
Employees and Retirees

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Kim Guadagno

Commissioner
James S. Simpson

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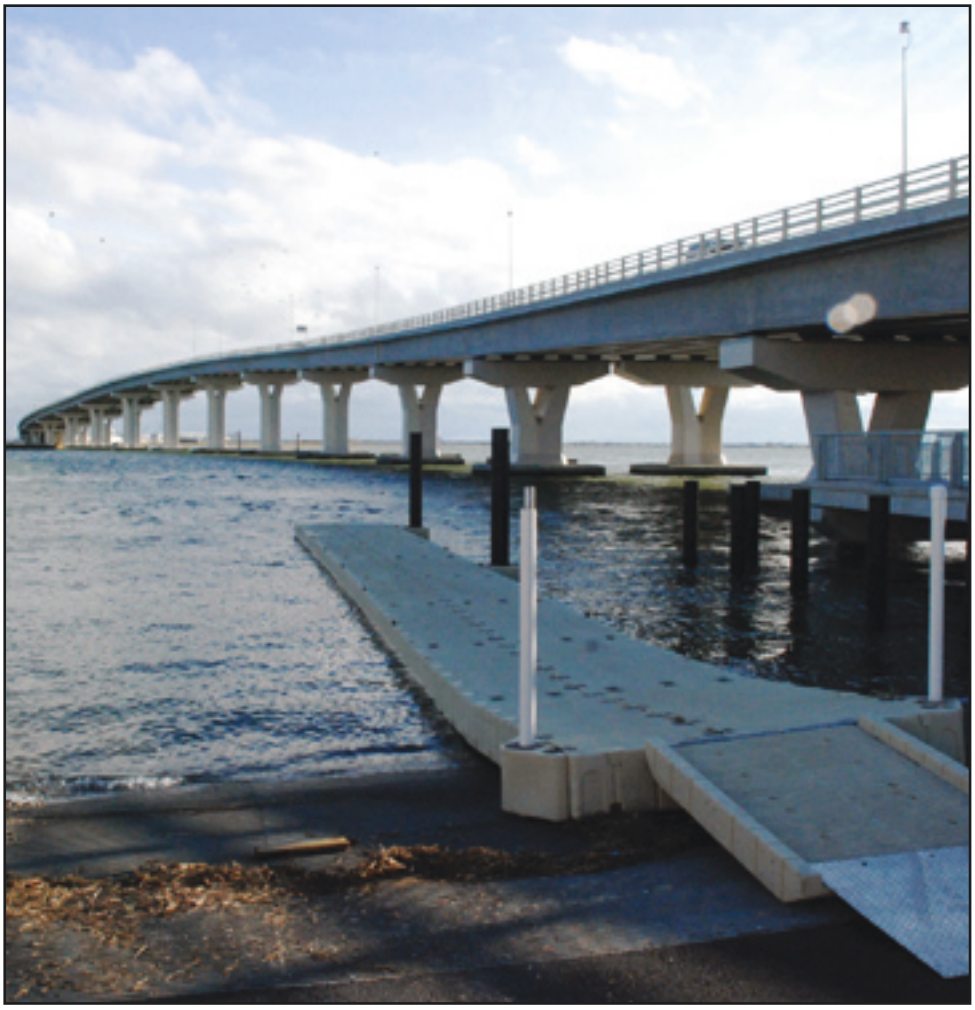
Route 52 Causeway receives ASHE Award

Two projects from opposite ends of the pay scale have each been recognized by the NJ sections of the American Society of Highway Engineers this month. The $400 million Route 52 Causeway replacement project connecting Ocean City and Somers Point was awarded the 2013 Project of the Year for the 'Over $5 million' category. This project was helmed by current Director of Capital Project Management **Dave Lambert**, Project Manager **Frank Inverso**, Field Manager **Tony Guerrieri** and Resident Engineer Dan Lord (Parsons-Brinckerhoff). In the 'Under $5 million' category, the $700,000 Route 33 emergency bridge repair over Rocky Brook in Hightstown took home the glory. Program Manager **Mark Rollo**, Project Manager **Bill Birch**, Field Manager **Bob Holland** and Resident Engineer **Don Olla** kept this project on track. **Denise Peck** and **Kim Nance** in the Office of Community Relations handled resident and business concerns for each project as well. Congratulations to all involved.



Route 52 Causeway

Multiple Award Winning Pavement Research Project Team

Mehta

NJDOT's Bureau of Research, managed by **Camille Crichton-Sumners**, contracts with Universities to find workable solutions to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of maintaining New Jersey's transportation infrastructure. **Eileen Sheehy**, the Manager of the NJDOT Bureau of Materials, submitted problem statements to research appropriate quality control procedures to ensure the mechanical properties of bituminous asphalt mixtures are maintained when reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAC) or polymer modified binders are added.

NJDOT Research Project Manager (RPM) **Edward Stephen Kondrath** managed the state-of-the-art pavement research project entitled Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) in Hot Mix Asphalt. This research project was led by Principal Investigator (PI) Yusuf Mehta, from Rowan University, who has won several AASHTO and ITE awards over the last year, as well as the 2012 NJDOT Research Implementation Award, awarded at the 14th Annual Research Showcase.

Recently, Dr. Mehta's undergraduate research team members, from the Correlation between Multiple Stress Creep Recovery (MSCR) Results and Polymer Modification of Binder research project, were awarded the 2013 Undergraduate Student Paper Award by the Philadelphia Engineering Foundation and the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia. This research project is managed by NJDOT RPM **Stefanie Potapa**, with **Eileen Sheehy** as the customer.

Bay Head elementary school offers heartfelt words

In the weeks following Superstorm Sandy, NJDOT crews worked around the clock to clear sand and debris and then reconstruct Route 35 in Bay Head and Mantoloking. The unprecedented effort required dozens of NJDOT's finest to devote themselves entirely to the cause, staying away from their homes and families at the job site for days at a time. Offering a glimmer of hope through the haze and devastation, displaced students from the Bay Head elementary school created and provided dozens of inspirational posters - such as this one - to our crews. The small but heartfelt gesture drove home the importance of the work and Operations crew supervisors such as **Anthony Ennas** and **Ken Lane** ensured that the posters were hung up in DOT and contractor equipment and field offices as inspiration to get the job done. This was about more than just restoring a roadway, this was helping restore people's lives.

Director of Operations Support, **Andrew Tunnard,** proudly reports that all twelve miles of Route 35 between Bay Head and Island Beach State Park were cleared, fixed and ready for normal operation by December 21, 2012 - a mere 53 days after Sandy hit land.

A job well done

Crew Supervisor **John Mateyka** (Sand Hill yard) was commended by Commissioner **James S. Simpson** at a recent Operations Management meeting for his courageous efforts in stopping illegal refuse dumping along Route 1 in South Brunswick. On March 20, Mr. Mateyka personally observed a commercial tandem truck parked in a vacant lot along the highway. This location has been the site of illegal dumping before, so John pulled over along the highway to see what was going on. He soon witnessed the body of the truck rise and asphalt and cement pieces were dumped on state property. John immediately pulled into the lot and blocked the exit with his truck and called local police, resulting in charges against the driver and trucking company. Job well done to John.

Obituaries

Artemio Chavez of Phillipsburg, passed away on September 12, 2012. He was employed by NJDOT as a Regional Assistant Supervisor. He is survived by his wife Colleen March Chavez; daughters Nieves Chavez of Silver Spring, MD and Stephanie Chavez of Hollywood, FL; and a son, Artemio AJ Chavez, Jr.

Michael F. Swem of Hamilton, passed away on October 22, 2012 at Capital Health System - Hopewell. Michael worked for the State of New Jersey for 32 years. He began with the Department of Motor Vehicles and later worked in the NJDOT, where he was a governmental relations specialist in the correspondence unit for the commissioner. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Rose Scozzari Swem; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Theresa and John Scordo of Allentown and Patricia Swem of Trenton; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Robert and Judith Swem of Yardville and John Swem of Trenton.

Rhasshan Dixon of Paterson, passed away December 15, 2012. He was employed by NJDOT as a Maintenance Worker. Rhasshan is survived by his wife Elvira Gonzalez Dixon; daughter Kennedy Dixon; son Mekhi Jones; step children Karel Brown and Precise Smith; brothers Michael M. Dixon and Lateef Scott, and sisters Sharonda Glenn and Uvonda Lyde.

Walter A. McGrosky of Southampton, Pa. Passed away Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012. Walt spent his entire career with the NJDOT, most recently as the director for the Division of Project Management. Walter was the beloved husband of Ellen and the devoted father of Amanda and Caitlyn. He will be sadly missed by his brother David; his sisters Lisa McGrosky-Kleja and Laurie Espe; and his nieces and nephews.

Robert Wagner passed away on October 11, 2012. Robert started his career with the Department of Transportation in December 2007 and was a Maintenance Worker 1. He is survived by his father George; his brother, NJDOT employee **William Wagner**; his sisters Linda, Janet, Nancy and Beth; his cousin Ed; his Aunt Jean; and numerous nieces and nephews.

NJDOT celebrates Black History Month

Stephanie Nock

Suphrana Sargeant

Paul Thomas

Simon Nwachukwu

Keisha Vaughan-Glasper

NJDOT celebrated Black History Month with reenactments of past and current individuals who had a significant impact on our lives today. Keynote speaker Kevin Davis, brother of NJDOT employee **Anthony Davis**, spoke to a packed room. Davis, a gifted poet and communicator, uses his talents to reach out to adolescents and has presented in many local churches, high schools and colleges. His volunteer work has been recognized by the NJ Assembly and Senate and his series on STD/HIV Prevention Education is one-of-a-kind.

The program continued with an all NJDOT cast reenactment. **Stephanie Nock**, Secretarial Assistant 2, as Mary Seacole; **Ellis Williams**, Geographic Information Systems Specialist 3, as Thurgood Marshall; **Suphrana Sargeant**, Realty Specialist 2, as Harriet Tubman; **Nona Davis**, Secretarial Assistant 2, as Billie Holiday; **Paul Thomas**, Project Engineer, as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; **Anika James**, Secretarial Assistant 2, as Mae Carol Jeminson; **Simon Nwachukwu**, Principal Engineer, as Nelson Mandela; **Chrystal Section**, Administrative Analyst, as Oprah Winfrey; **Keisha Vaughan-Glasper**, Secretarial Assistant 1, as Michelle Obama; and **Warren Howard**, Supervising Engineer 2, as President Barack Hussein Obama.

Dominique Sanders sings 'Wind Beneath my Wings.'

Ellis Williams

Nona Davis

Anika James

Chrystal Section

Warren Howard

NJDOT's Service Anniversary Award Recipients

Senior Leadership Team

30 Years of Service
Richard Hammer
25 Years of Service
David Kuhn

Commissioner's Office

25 Years of Service
Sharon Caffey
Kelly McClure

Administration

40 Years of Service
Joseph Todaro
35 Years of Service
John Evans
Deborah Mesday
Cynthia Moore
Jeffrey Overton
25 Years of Service
Joseph Cook
Michael DeAngelo
Janice DeJohn
Lisa Kaye
Martin Keynton
Michelle Lavell
Harriet McGee
Freida Sessoms
Kenneth Vita
Lisa Ann Webber
Ellis Williams

Capital Investment Planning and Grant Administration

35 Years of Service
Brian Britton
Dominick Critelli
Louis DeStefano
Robert Lane
Michele Laureti
James Lewis
30 Years of Service
Cheryl Edwards
Robert Harris
Suzanne Rizzo
25 Years of Service
Antoun Abraham
Christophe Bergeman
Kevin Conover
Anthony Davis
William Day
Danielle Graves
Abbas Hirya
Penny Jones
Virginia Powell
Wendy Smith
Robert Smith
Timothy Steinbeiser
Jackie Sweat
Mark Tozzi
Paul Truban
Anthony Varone
Dawn Williams

Chief Financial Officer

35 Years of Service
George Britton
Alan Cooper
Patricia Frascella
Dawn Hatch
Mary Jo Novembre
25 Years of Service
Bill Barber

Government & Community Relations

25 Years of Service
Glenn Catana
Charles Middleton

Inspector General

35 Years of Service
Ruth Pecarsky

Transportation Systems Management

30 Years of Service
Charles Patton
25 Years of Service
Margaret Fitzgerald-Farley
Jose Garcia
Bonnie Green
Suzanne Tomlinson

Capital Program Management

40 Years of Service
John Ciemnecki
Jay Kanengiser
35 Years of Service
John Campi
Kelei Carter
Ronald Dadamo
John Gaspari
David Hall
Mark Kianka
J. Eric Kraehenbuehl
George Kuhn
Mark Masiello
Michael Morrissey
Rosanna Piechocinski
Sharon Pullen
Ferguson Reeves
Dinkar Shah
Arthur Steiner
Clayton Tice
Robert Verner
Patrick Weber
30 Years of Service
Luis Antao
Victoria Battaglia
George Caruso
Thomas Garruba
Albert Garzoni
Susan Gresavage
Michael Lewis
Angelo Mendola
Manharbhai Patel
Philip Petrowski
Stephen Powell
Robert Rhoades
Stephen Roberts
Mark Rollo
Paul Schneider
Angel Torrado
25 Years of Service
Thomas Anzabi
Richard Attenello
Lisa Barbiero
Michael Barton
Candida Bernal
Rajesh Bhavsar
William Bialowasz
Cynthia Bloom-Cronin
Rajendra Brahmbhatt
Ralph Capaccio
Caroline Carmody
James Coyle
Thomas Crawford
Rebecca Dalton
Alfredia Darden
Murtada Darouti
James Diloreto
Nicholas Dogias
Paul Ezeuka
Miguel Faucette
Joanne Gerbino
Anthony Guerrieri
Todd Hirt

Capital Program Management

25 Years of Service

Doreen Holsneck
Louis Jolibois
Linda Karp
Jude Kianka
Michael Kinley
John Larkin
Patricia Larkins
Kimvan Le
John Maida
Joseph Maloney
Christopher Manz
Nabeel Maroof
William McClain
John McCleerey
Charles McGeary
Robert McGill
Thomas Miller
Robert Nagy
Ali Najem
Shannon Namey
Anthony Obidike
Snehal Patel
Mahesh Patel
Edward Pennell
Michael Pierandozzi
Wael Quasmieh
Robert Raachini
Abe Rezaeian
Dennis Rodriguez
Danielle Scannon
Richard Snyder
Thomas Sohn
Diane Stratton
Dhanjibhai Sutariya
Gary Taylor
Ronald Vecchiolla
Lawrence Vogel
Michelle Wallace
Mark Webber

Operations

45 Years of Service

Karen Hartle

40 Years of Service

Leo Higgins
Kathleen Schuld
Alan Tani

35 Years of Service

Harold Banks
David Bowlby
Dwayne Brown
Bruce Caro
Anthony DellaTerza
David Lortz
Edward Runco
Terry Stewart

30 Years of Service

David Albertson
Thomas DiPierro
Dennis Gratton
Paul Lechmanick
Eric Madara
Kevin Miller
Jay Raio
Jeannine Savage

25 Years of Service

Dawn Arcamone
Henry Barbato
Chris Blauvelt
Gary Bodine
Richard Brigandi
Kim Burkhart
Leroy Carter
John Casella
Joan Cheatley
Debra Christensen
Patricia Dalton
Alkesh Desai
Connie Fisher
Arleigh Freeborn
John Gahwyler
David Harker
James Hood
Carl Johnson
Willie Martin
Norma Maziarz
Frank Merchant
Philip Nicodemo
Terry Robertson
Stanley Rzepski
Matthew Sailey
Mahmoud Saleh

Congratulations to all NJDOT 2012 Service Anniversary Award Recipients